

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA 379
DNR 47-B
MAGI # 1303793504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Watts-Virdin School House
AND/OR COMMON Bonnie T. Watts House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Lapidum & Stafford Roads
CITY, TOWN Lapidum VICINITY OF First
STATE Maryland COUNTY Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources Telephone #:
STREET & NUMBER Tawes State Office Building
CITY, TOWN Annapolis VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Md. 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE Registry of Deeds, Etc Harford County Court House
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Bel Air STATE Md.
Liber #: GR6 361
Folio #: 168

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

HA-379

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Viridin School House, located on a dirt road off Stafford Road in Lapidum, is a two storey one bay wide two bay deep bevelled-frame structure dating from the mid-nineteenth century. The building, like the adjacent Viridin House (HA 378) is constructed on a terrace. An interior brick chimney rises from the west gable. Its roof is asphalt shingled. The building sits on a low fieldstone foundation.

The main (east) gable facade is defined by two entrances located one over the other. Both doors possess an arched three light transom. An open one-storey, balconied porch with wrought iron grilled supports and porch rail has been added across this facade.

A third door is located on the north facade near the northwest corner. It has a flat-arched, three-light transom. A fourth door is found on the second storey near the southwest corner of the west gable facade. The second storey stairs have been removed.

Windows with 6/6 sash mark the two bays of the first and second storeys of the south facade. Another window is located directly below the second storey door of the west facade.

The house appears to have been extensively altered over the years. In recent times it was converted into apartments and continues to function as such.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following is quoted from the information collected by Paul Penrod in 1976.

"This structure is located on the same parcel that was the site of the various ferries operated by the Perkins and the Bell families throughout the late 1700's and the early 1800's. This structure is more recent, dating from about the middle of the nineteenth century when Lapidum was a thriving community. This school house was said to have been used as a private school for surrounding families as there was no public school in Lapidum until 1870, when the Stevenson Lodge was constructed. Like the Lodge, it may have served as a meeting hall for local groups. The Harford County Directory remarks on page 375 that this building was "one of the oldest school houses still standing".

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bridget M. Deale, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August 1979

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK PROPERTY

Watts-Virdin Home and Schoolhouse

<u>Libre</u>	<u>Folio</u>	
GRG 361	168	In 1951, J.Avery Stainback, widower, sold to Bonnie T. Watts and Cricket S. Tubbs as joint tenants the 83 acres, more or less, of Perkins' Valley or Bright Water. The land was once owned by Mary D. Stainback.
SWC 237	482	Joseph D. Virdin, Elizabeth Virdin Evans, Mary Love Virdin and others sold to Mary D. Stainback the farm called Bright Water, consisting of 91 acres, more or less, and being part of a tract once called Perkins' Valley. This transaction took place in 1935.
JAR 137	45	In 1911, Peter Lesley Hopper acted as a trustee for a tract involved in a suit between Joseph D. Virdin and Martha Lee Virdin Fitzgerald. Hopper sold the land to Mary Virdin Stainback, it being of 91 acres, more or less, and known as Perkins' Valley and Bright Waters.
ALJ 57	353	In 1883, John McCoy sold to Kate E. Virdin, Martin Lee Virdin, Mary D. Virdin, John McCoy Virdin and Joseph D. Virdin a tract known as Perkins' Valley, totalling 91 acres, more or less. This deed also gave the breakdown for the previous ownership of the land, of which there were three distinct divisions.
ALJ 7	24	1. In 1856, Henry D. Farnandis was appointed as a trustee after a court case between Walter Farnandis and William W. Virdin. Henry D. Farnandis sold to Virdin the 91 acres of Perkins' Valley, also known as the Bell's Ferry Property.
Court Equity Case 1162 D 75		
ALJ 12	494	In 1855, Walter Farnandis, Joseph Coudon, Otho Scott and others filed a suit against Henry D. Farnandis and William W. Virdin. A sale resulted from an 1841 case pending between Otho Scott and John Donahoo. In 1842 the land was sold to Coudon, Virdin and Walter Farnandis, this transaction being ratified and confirmed and the purchase money being paid to Henry D. Farnandis. However, the deed was not executed for Perkins' Valley or Bell's Ferry, comprising 91 acres, more or less. Since the lands could not be partitioned and Virdin refused to sell, Henry D. Farnandis was appointed as trustee and sold all of the parcel to William W. Virdin.

<u>Acres</u>	<u>Folio</u>	
HD 24	92	John Donahoo was deeply in debt to Walter Farnandis and among other properties, he mortgaged the 91 acres of Perkins' Valley to Farnandis in 1840. Farnandis had sold the tract, as a trustee, to Donahoo and others in 1837.
Court Equity Case		
484 B 64		
HD 5	271	In 1837, a case evolved, involving William Sappington and Phebe Bell. Phebe Bell's late husband, Robert, died in 1829 owing a great debt to Sappington. The 91 acres, more or less, of Perkins' Valley had been purchased by Robert Bell's father, Robert, Sr., from John Stump and Samuel Gover. John Donahoo was eventually sold the property by the trustees.
HD 2	315	In 1814 a land partition was made of the estate of Robert Bell, Sr., who had died in 1807 and had willed that his land be divided in equal portions among his heirs. Since there were so many heirs that such a process was infeasible, the court decided to allow Robert Bell, Jr., to buy it all- an amount said to be less than 100 acres.
WD 18	49	2. In 1866, Samuel Hopkins, a free black, sold 2 acres, more or less, to William W. Virdin. There is no clear-cut prior reference to this plot of land, probably because Samuel Hopkins was illiterate (He signed the deed with an "X"). However, the land might have been in the more prominent Hopkins family, from which Samuel may have gotten his surname. In JLG L 215, a 1792 deed describes a sale of land in the same area to the Hopkins family from a Robert Smith, with a one and three-quarter acre lot "to be laid off for Negro Casar where most convenient". This lot may have been retained in the Hopkins family until Samuel's time.
ALJ 7	78	3. In 1856, Henry D. Farnandis sold to William W. Virdin $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of Perkins' Valley which he in turn had bought from Henry W. Archer, a trustee who had held the land during a court case involving executor Herman Stump for Cassandra Stump and William W. Virdin.
Court of Equity Case		
1078 D 45		
ALJ 3	66	An 1853 suit involved Herman Stump, executor for the estate of the late Cassandra Stump, who complained that Virdin, John W. Stump, Allen Anderson and John Donahoo had not followed procedure in an 1823 purchase of a $\frac{1}{2}$ acre part of Perkins' Valley from Jane Bell. This same piece contained a dwelling house and was purchased in that same year by Jane Bell from a Thomas Smith.
HD W	243	In 1811, Benjamin Johnson of Virginia sold the $\frac{1}{2}$ acre parcel to Thomas Smith. This is the earliest recorded reference to this part.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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HA-379

see revised form

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Watts-Virdin Schoolhouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Lapidum and Stafford Roads

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

VICINITY OF

Lapidum

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- ☒ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

- ☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☒ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Telephone #: 267-5656

STREET & NUMBER

Tawes State Office Building

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: GRG 361

Folio #: 168

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

HA-379

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____
may have been

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two-story, bevelled frame structure is located just south of the Viridin House and like the house, faces eastward. It has one bay by two with 6 X 6 windows. The building itself rests on a terrace and it has a low stone foundation. There are two doors located on the east face of the school, one over the other. Each of them has an arched three-bay transom. There is another door located on the north side near the northwest corner with a flat three-light transom above it and still another door on the second floor near the southwest corner. The doors on the second floor indicate that a porch probably provided access to these upper entrances. The existing porch is a recent addition and is situated on the eastern facade, being a double-deck iron affair. The roof is a gable front and has been refurbished, as have the eaves and the soffits. The single chimney appears to be original and is made of brick. It is sited on the inside end of the west side.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This structure is located on the same parcel that was the site of the various ferries operated by the Perkins and the Bell families throughout the late 1700's and the early 1800's. This structure is of more recent, dating from about the middle of the Nineteenth Century when Lapidum was a thriving community. This school was said to have been used as a private school for surrounding families as there was no public school in Lapidum until 1870, when the Stevenson Lodge was constructed. Like the Lodge, it may have served as a meeting hall for local groups. The Harford County Directory remarks on page 375 that this building was "one of the oldest school houses still standing".

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford County Land Records
Harford County Directory

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

83

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is located on a lane running southeast from the intersection of Stafford and Lapidum Roads. It bounds along the old canal ditch and the rail spur line on the east and along the property of Bonnie T. Watts to the south and to the west. This parcel was obtained from Miss Watts by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul Penrod / Site surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

DATE

May 19, 1976

TELEPHONE

267-1212

STATE

Maryland

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HA-379





HA-379

U.S.G.S. MAP
ABERDEEN, MD.



Watts-Virdin Schoolhouse HA-379

Lapidum Road

Havre de Grace, MD

Paul Penrod

4/76

Westside



HA 378,379

DNR 47-A,47-B

VIRDIN HOUSE AND SCHOOLHOUSE
LAPIDUM AND STAFFORD ROADS
SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK

SE ELEVATION

BMD 9/78



HA 379
DNR 47-B

VIRDIN SCHOOLHOUSE
LAPIDUM AND STAFFORD ROADS
SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK

SE ELEVATION

BMD 9/78



Watts-Virdin Schoolhouse HA - 379
Lapidum Road
Havre de Grace, MD
Paul Penrod 4/76
Eastside